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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

Lawrence RITCHIE ET AL

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: 09/926,220

FILED: 26 September 2001

FOR: DETECTION OF LIQUIDS :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first Office Action on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) A method according to Claim 3 wherein the hydrophobic element comprises polyvinylidene fluoride
5. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the radiation source and input means are operated to direct radiation towards said sensing location and the detector/analyser and output means are used to receive radiation reflected from the sensing location.

a' *Amended*  
B1